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SOVIET ACADEMICIAN I. P. BARDIN APPRAISES HUNGARIAN METALLURGY

/Comment: Before returning to the USSR, Academician I. P. Bardin, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences USSR, revealed his impressions of the Hungarian ferrous metallurgical industry in a special interview granted to Szabad Nep. Apparently using a more conciliatory tone than he had employed when inspecting the metalworks at Diosgyor, Bardin nonetheless generally backed up the eight-point criticism leveled at the metallurgical industry by Mihaly Zsofinyecz, Minister of Metallurgy [redacted] The following is a summary of Bardin's comments./

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It is evident that the Hungarian metallurgists have been striving to progress as rapidly as possible. Work has improved in some of the plants, and some plants have been reconstructed and modernized.

It was a pleasure to see the new blast and open-hearth furnaces at Diosgyor. Three years ago this plant was using no scientific instruments. Today, nearly all the shops have scientific instruments, but the workers pay too little attention to them. The plant is being completely overhauled, and the work load is immense.

Although there is less reconstruction in progress at Ozd, the work itself is better organized and supervised. The main production processes are guided by a dispatcher system [redacted] which will soon be expanded to include the whole plant.

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The modern tube-drawing machines at the Matyas Rakosi Works were an excellent investment. The ore mine at Rudabanya is small but extremely well-kept, and has an unusually efficient group of engineers and workers. The steel products plant at Salgotarjan is also well staffed with skilled workers and engineers.

The city of Sztalinvaros and the steelworks there are being built with a speed which is most impressive.

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The basic trouble with the Hungarian metallurgical industry is poor work organization; manpower is distributed improperly and supplies do not come in regularly. Work must be completed according to the graph in every shop, and the dispatcher service must be extended. Every shop should have its technical instructions and standards so it will be possible to determine what work can be done and what orders are acceptable. The graphs in the various shops should be carefully coordinated and work discipline more strictly enforced for management and labor alike.

There is great need for better understanding between workers and technicians. Production conferences can help to promote such cooperation and understanding. Young workers should not be held back by their elders. The technicians need to be given greater freedom with greater responsibility.

Many accidents could be prevented if intraplant transportation were mechanized and the shops were reorganized in such a way as to eliminate the need for sending material constantly back and forth.

A visit to both the Matyas Rakosi Technical University of Heavy Industry and the Iron and Metal Industry Research Institute has convinced me that both institutions are exceedingly well-equipped and are doing excellent work in research and training.

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